

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES: FRANK TERUGGI, JR., CI

SUBJECT: TERUGGI CASE

REF: STATE 105694

1. IN COURSE OF YOUR INQUIRY TO LEARN STATUS OF MININTERIOR BONILLA'S PROMISE TO REOPEN TERUGGI INVESTIGATION (REF), EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO PASS TO MINISTRY THE FOLLOWING TEXT, AS FURNISHED IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY TERUGGI, SR., OF LETTER GIVEN TO TERUGGI, SR. IN SANTIAGO. LETTER PURPORTS TO RELATE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF TORTURE OF "AMERICAN DETAINEE NAMED FRANK."

2. DOCUMENT, AS RECEIVED VIA SENATOR STEVENSON'S OFFICE, IS CAPTIONED "TRANSLATION OF LETTER TO DUTCH CONSUL HOYTINK (V.C.) FROM CHILEAN WOMAN GIVEN TO MR. TERUGGI DURING HIS TRIP TO SANTIAGO." BEGIN TEXT: AMONG THE HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS FROM THE STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (IN SANTIAGO) WHO WERE ARRESTED ON SEPTEMBER 11--FIRST IN THE CHILE STADIUM, LATER TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL STADIUM--A FEW WERE RELEASED DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN OCTOBER. THE CONDITIONS OF ARREST AND THE TORTURES GIVEN THE ARRESTED WERE NARRATED TO ME BY SOME OF THOSE STUDENTS AS FOLLOWS:

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THERE WERE MANY FOREIGNERS ARRESTED IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM,

AND THEY WERE QUESTIONED DAILY AND GIVEN ELECTRIC CURRENT SHOCKS; THEY WERE BEATEN AND DAGGERS WERE USED TO WRITE "FOREIGN DOGS" ON THEIR BACKS.

THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO SIMULATED FIRE ARMS EXECUTIONS EVERY DAY. THIS WAS DONE AT NIGHT, WHEN THE PRISONERS WERE TAKEN TO A SECTION OF THE STADIUM BLINDFOLDED AND WITH THEIR HANDS TIED. AT A GIVEN ORDER TO SHOOT, THE SOLDIERS WOULD FIRE; THIS PROCESS WAS REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

AT THE BEGINNING (I CAN NARRATE EVENTS UP TO OCTOBER 15 ONLY) THE TREATMENT GIVEN TO FOREIGNERS WAS ESPECIALLY SAVAGE--AND APPLIED EQUALLY TO BOTH MEN AND WOMEN. THE FOREIGNERS WERE KEPT APART FROM THE CHILEAN PRISONERS, BUT IN THE DAYTIME WHILE BEING IN THE OPEN FIELD INSIDE, OR DURING THE QUESTIONING PERIODS, THEY WERE ABLE TO EXCHANGE IMPRESSIONS AND MEET BRIEFLY.

BESIDES OTHER FOREIGNERS WHO WERE IDENTIFIED, THE STUDENTS WHO NARRATED THIS TO ME WERE PARTICULARLY SURPRISED AND SHOCKED ABOUT THE CASE OF A YOUNG AMERICAN, WHOM THEY MET DURING SOME OF THE QUESTIONING PERIODS. THE STUDENTS IDENTIFIED HIM AS FRANK, AND, ALTHOUGH I CANNOT ASSURE THAT HIS NAME WAS TERUGGI, I AM SURE OF HIS FIRST NAME.

HE WAS IN VERY BAD PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE FIRST TIME THE STUDENTS CONTACTED HIM, HE HAD BEEN QUESTIONED WITH HIS HEAD COVERED AND TIED IN A SACK. HE WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN, AND HAD TO BE TAKEN OUTSIDE ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS; THE MILITARY FORCED ONE OF THE CHILEAN STUDENTS ALSO BEING QUESTIONED TO HELP TRANSFER HIM TO ONE OF THE STADIUM DRESSING-ROOMS, SAYING, "YOU, HUEVON (SPANISH, DEROGATORY WORD FOR A MAN, REFERRING TO HIS SEXUAL ORGANS), HELP THIS DAMN "GRINGO"; HE IS ONE OF THE SAME."

THE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN AND TALKED TO HIM BRIEFLY. HIS CONDITION WAS DEPLORABLE, AND HE FELT HE COULD NO LONGER RESIST, IF THE QUESTIONINGS CONTINUED IN THE SAME WAY. HE ASKED THEM TO INFORM THAT THERE WERE SOME AMERICANS AMONG THE FOREIGN PRISONERS. HE TRUSTED THAT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD HELP HIM.

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I CAN ASSURE THAT THIS PRISONER'S NAME WAS FRANK, BECAUSE THE STUDENTS REMEMBERED HIM IN A SPECIAL WAY, SINCE HE WAS AN AMERICAN AND BECAUSE OF THE SAVAGE TREATMENT HE WAS GIVEN. WE GAVE HIS NAME INDIRECTLY TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

I CANNOT SAY ANYMORE. WHEN I READ THE NEWS THAT MR. FRANK

TERUGGI, SR. WAS HERE IN A VISIT, I KEPT THINKING THAT THE PRISONER WHOM I HAVE MENTIONED CAN BE HIS SON, SINCE THE STUDENTS WHO TOLD ME THIS INDICATED THAT THERE WERE ONLY 2 OR 3 AMERICANS AMONG THE DETAINED IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM. END TEXT.

3. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING STRONG FAMILY AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN ASCERTAINING CIRCUMSTANCES OF TERUGGI DEATH, EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST GOC REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN LETTER AND POSSIBILITY OF PURSUING ANY LEADS SUGGESTED THEREIN. RUSH

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